

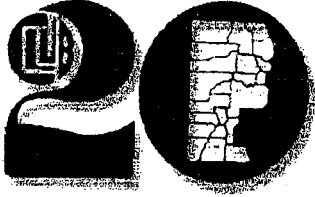
Letter 36

Jun 23 03 08:29a

CLUB 20

9702458300

P. 2



"Voice of the Western Slope since 1953"
A coalition of counties, communities, businesses & individuals

(970) 242-3264 ★ FAX (970) 245-8300
P.O. Box 550
Grand Junction, CO 81502-0550
www.club20.org

June 20, 2003

Liane Mattson
GMUG National Forests
N. Rio Grand Ave, Box 1030
Paonia, CO 81428

This letter sent via email this date to: lmattson@fs.fed.us

Dear Liane –

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for Gunnison Energy Corporation's proposed exploratory gas drilling project on the GMUG Forest. As the "Voice of the Western Slope" which represents the collective interests of the 22 counties in Western Colorado, CLUB 20 is very interested in this issue and how it impacts the local Western Slope economy, culture and environment.

We are aware of the extensive preliminary studies that have been done regarding these exploratory wells. Gunnison Energy readily engaged in a thorough series of public meetings last year which Delta County hosted regarding similar wells on adjacent private lands. And, as part of this preparatory process, Gunnison Energy has compiled some extensive data regarding the anticipated impacts on area water supplies (both surface and groundwater).

36-1

In reviewing the Environmental Assessment for Gunnison Energy's proposed exploratory wells on the GMUG, it appears to us that minimal adverse impacts are anticipated as a result of these exploratory wells. Certainly, the initial water studies conducted thus far would seem to support the logical conclusion that such impacts to groundwater supplies would be minimal given the vertical distance between the gas resource and the groundwater. While we recognize the critical importance of protecting our groundwater and surface environmental values, we also recognize the need to make science-based decisions and balance environmental protection with optimization of the energy resource. To this end, we encourage your office to proceed with the exploratory wells which Gunnison Energy is proposing, and do so without imposing unnecessarily restrictive "Additional Mitigation" requirements (as described in the EA).

Letter 36 Continued

Jun 23 03 08:29a

CLUB 20

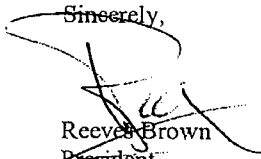
9702458300

p. 3

C20 Membership Structure
6/20/03
page 2

Thank you for your diligent efforts to balance the diverse values of the GMUG Forests. Thanks also for this opportunity for CLUB 20 to comment in support of Gunnison Energy's proposed exploratory wells.

Sincerely,



Reeves Brown
President

Letter 37

Jun 20 03 07:52a

Rob Miller

1-970-527-5846

p. 1



June 20, 2003

TO: Project Coordinator

I am concerned greatly about the proposed Coal bed gas wells in our county of Delta Colorado.

- 37-1 [First off, drilling into the coal beds for methane should not proceed without a serious study of the longterm impacts to our water, air quality and wildlife – the things that are most important to us citizens who live here.
- 37-2 [We want to be assured that low emission generators, noise mufflers, dust suppression are all in place. Also fencing for wildlife is of utmost importance.
- 37-3 [We want to make sure that community input is heard, and heard throughout the life of the drilling. The industry in question here has a horrible track record, and that concerns us greatly. We want to know how the industry plans to work with the community to do everything it can to sustain our current high standard of life here in Delta county.
- 37-4 [Thank you for hearing our concerns. We would rather not have any Coal bed drilling here in Delta County – we already sustain the country with 3 major coal mines – we are doing our part – but if this is pushed through, please take into our concerns and with WITH us.

Thank you,

Rob Miller
Mercedes Medical
1275 4150 Rd
Paonia, CO 81428
1-970-527-7561
Delta County, USA

PAONIA RANGER DISTRICT
ACTION DATE

JUN 20 2003

DISTRICT RANGER
MINERALS ☒ LM
LANDS/ENG
RANGE
WILDLIFE
GDA
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Letter 38

PAONIA RANGER DISTRICT
ACTION DATE

JUN 23 2003

DISTRICT RANGER _____
MINERALS _____
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CIRCUIT _____

Project Manager
GEC Exploration Drilling Project
PO Box 1030
Paonia, CO 814

June 20, 2003

38-1

The Colorado Oil & Gas Association is hereby submitting its comments to the Environmental Assessment for Gunnison Energy Corporation's Proposed Exploratory Drilling Project. *COGA is a strong supporter of this project, as it represents exactly the kind of exploratory activity that this nation will require in order to find and develop the new natural gas resources essential to heat our homes, generate our electricity and fuel our economy.* The importance of this and similar projects has recently been highlighted in the Congressional testimony of Federal Reserve Bank Chairman Greenspan, and will be further emphasized by a forthcoming conference under the auspices of DOE Secretary Abraham. President Bush has, by Executive Order 13212, directed federal land management agencies to facilitate this kind of energy development activity.

38-2

COGA has reviewed the Environmental Assessment and its appendices, and finds them to be a comprehensive, complete and detailed analysis of the project and its potential (minor) environmental impacts. Table 2-8, and Section 3 reveal no significant negative impacts. Lease stipulations and drilling permit conditions, as well as applicable federal and state oil and gas regulations will ensure protection of water, soil, wildlife and other natural resources. This project presents no unusual or irreversible negative environmental problems. Due to GEC's funding of water research, conducted by Wright Water Engineers, the (non-existent) hydrologic impacts of the project are much better understood than is normally the case for exploratory activity. Indeed, certain of the potential groundwater mitigation measures (e.g. WR -5, WR-6 & WR-12) are probably unnecessary and excessive.

38-3

38-4

While the socioeconomic impact of this *exploratory* project will be temporary, minor and positive, the potential economic benefit to the area should the project proceed to the development stage will be substantial. A good example can be found in the experience of Las Animas County, where natural gas (coalbed methane) development has been the major economic driver in Colorado's poorest county. Industry jobs there average \$30-45,000, much higher than pre-existing levels. Delta and Gunnison Counties, similarly, suffer from per capita income levels just over 50% of the state average. In Las Animas County, each

Letter 38 Continued

38-4

industry job has created an additional 1.8 jobs, with a dollar multiplier of 1.5. The natural gas industry is now the major local employer, with a payroll exceeding the combined total of Trinidad Junior College, the City of Trinidad and the new state prison. In addition, the natural gas industry represents 50% of the county's assessed valuation, reducing property taxes paid by residents by half. Millions of dollars of severance taxes and royalties flow back into the community each year.

COGA is aware that a small minority of vocal area residents – whose goal and litigation strategy are to prevent gas wells entirely – oppose this project. However, federal land management and energy development decisions cannot be based on such parochial *nimby* sentiments. Projects such as this are too important to the nation and the general welfare of the American public.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Wonstolen
Senior Vice President & General Counsel

Letter 39

duplicate

06-29-03 14:44 TOWN OF CEDAREDDGE

ID=1 970 856 7292

P01/02



(970) 856-3123 / Fax: (970) 856-7292
245 West Main Street - P.O. Box 398
CEDAREDDGE, CO 81413

June 20, 2003

Project Manager
GEC Exploration Drilling Project
P. O. Box 1030
Paonia, CO 81428

Re: Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management, EA,
Proposed Gunnison Energy Corp. exploration wells.

Project Manager,

The Board of Trustees of the Town of Cedaredge (Town) would like to make the following comments on the referenced EA. The Town reiterates the concerns included in our letter response during the assessment period of this EA and include them by reference in these specific comments.

39-1

The comments are referenced by number to specific sections and paragraphs within the Proposed EA and address both offsite and onsite impacts. Although this EA covers just eight exploration wells, two of which are in the Cedaredge and Surface Creek area, the cumulative effect of development following these wells (if successful) must be acknowledged. The conditions of approval, rule exceptions granted, and general pattern of the permit process for these explorations will influence the manner of later development.

3.4 Water Resources:

39-2

Two of the proposed well sites (Leon Lake # 4 & # 5) are within the Town's water shed for its domestic water. The Town supports the potential mitigation measures WR-5, WR-6, and WR-12.

39-3

The Town is against the granting of exceptions to the 500 foot standoff from water bodies and streams. Such exceptions, if actually granted, should also include specific protection measures to offset the placement of the drill site and accesses closer to these water bodies. The Town recently experienced a significant problem at its water treatment plant. The problem, although complex in its entirety, was aggravated by a higher load of solids coming from the water shed area. Any increased sediment load to surface water in the watershed due to the drilling activity is of considerable concern for the Town. Mitigation measures imposed on the oil and gas activities should be strong enough to alleviate these concerns.

39-4

The Town is concerned about the additional dust generated by the operation within the Town's watershed and again, requests it be minimized to prevent contamination of the surface water in the watershed.

3.9 Noise

39-5

Although not directly impacted by the noise generated at the site during construction or drilling, the Town will certainly be impacted by the noise of heavy truck traffic supporting the operations as it passes through Cedaredge. (see additional comments on 3.12 below)

3.12 Transportation:

39-6

The Town is very concerned about the increased heavy truck traffic this project would bring to Highway 65 passing through the middle of Cedaredge. The heavy truck

Letter 39 Continued

06-20-03 14:45 TOWN OF CEDAREdge

ID=1 970 856 7292

P02/02

39-6 traffic would bring with it all of the associated safety, noise, air pollution, and negative impact on the current level of tranquillity enjoyed by our citizens. The discussion within the EA (page 3.12.8 +) mentions impacts on motorists traveling Hwy 65 and crossing intersections along the Hwy 65 corridor through Cedaredge, but conspicuously omits any comment about the major intersection in the middle of Cedaredge. The Hwy 65 - Main Street intersection has a stop light. The signal, in addition to the reduced speed limit in Town, requires any truck to de-accelerate, possibly stop, and/or accelerate going up or down Hwy 65 while passing through Cedaredge. The associated noise and engine air emissions are increased by any truck going through this process. The elementary school on Hwy 65 in town and the residents living along this corridor will certainly be impacted by this additional traffic.

39-7 Potential mitigation measure T-4 is of particular concern for the Town. It would restrict drilling traffic on Highway 65 over Grand Mesa. The only other way for that traffic to go is south through Cedaredge, which would add to the problems noted above.

3.14 Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste

39-8 The Town request it and other related county agencies be included in the spill notification requirements for any releases of any hazardous material. (HZ-3) The Town's watershed and its water supply could be directly and immediately impacted by any spill. Early notification of releases are imperative for assuring that Cedaredge will be able to protect the Town's water quality and the health of its water users.

3.15 Health and Safety

39-9 The Town would like the assurance local emergency response agencies are included in any discussions for coordinated emergency preparations. Any emergency on nearby forest lands will have an immediate impact on all local agencies, whether it be through direct assistance or in a standby mode. The Town always is concerned about the health and safety of its citizens, and re-emphasizes the comments contained the sections above.

Again, the Cedaredge Board of Trustees urge you to consider the onsite impact this operation will have on the Town's watershed and the offsite impacts it will have on the Town and its residents. The Town requests you to place restrictions on any issued permit to alleviate these concerns. The Town would also request the cumulative impact of additional wells that may follow these be considered in the evaluation and permitting of these two exploration wells.

Sincerely



Tony Sluski, Mayor Pro-Tem

Letter 40

Tara Miller
4136 Road O
Paonia, Colorado 81428
970-527-6570 tarasam@paonia.com

June 20, 2003

Project Coordinator
PO Box 1030
Paonia, CO 81428

Dear Project Coordinator,

40-1

I have been a resident and business owner in the North Fork of the Gunnison Valley since 1990. Our prosperity here is dependent on healthy agriculture, air and water; our pursuit of happiness depends upon the healthy ecosystems of the natural and wild lands that surround us. The proposed Methane Gas drilling threatens all our community values.

40-2

Since this is the first multi-well project proposed by Gunnison Energy Corporation on our public lands, now is the time for our federal agencies to adequately study the impacts of gas development and to set the standard for gas exploration in our watersheds. Even this eight well proposal, apparently a relatively small project, will have significant short term impacts: thousands of new trucks on our scenic byways and in our towns, new roads cut through elk calving grounds and winter range, new routes for noxious weed infestations, air pollution from dust, methane venting and truck exhaust.

40-3

I am especially concerned fracturing with the chemical fluids, in hundreds of thousands of gallons, which is proposed to be pumped into the ground at each well site, not to speak of what water might be brought up in that process, be it salty or otherwise polluted.

40-4

Comprehensive studies have not been done. What are the long term, cumulative impacts? GEC has said publicly that they anticipate 600 wells over the life of the project, but this long term development scenario is almost entirely overlooked in this EA.

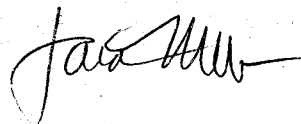
40-5

Finally, two points. Everything I learn about current technology for coal bed methane drilling seems to me to be unacceptable and incompatible with values in this valley if not life on earth itself. However, if it is to be done, (1) enforcement of what required mitigation must be rigorous. These ought to include fencing and nets to prevent wildlife and waterfowl from getting mired in drilling pits, efficient low-emission generators, noise mufflers, dust suppression on all access roads, and wellheads painted to blend in. In addition, (2) bonds that cover the absolute FULL

40-6

COSTS of reclamation and damage liabilities are essential.

Sincerely,



Tara Miller

PAONIA RANGER DISTRICT
ACTION **DATE**

JUN 23 2003

DISTRICT RANGER _____
MINERALS _____
LANDS/ENG _____
RANGE _____
WILDLIFE _____
C/OA _____
DBM/DBM ASST _____
LEO _____
TIMBER _____

Letter 41

Sam Brown
4136 Road O
Paonia, Colorado 81428
phone: 970-527-6570

June 20, 2003

U.S. Forest Service and BLM
Project Coordinator
PO Box 1030
Paonia, CO 81428

Dear Project Coordinator:

41-1 I am concerned about impacts to the North Fork Valley of the Gunnison River from coal bed methane drilling. The Environmental Assessment was lacking on cumulative impacts. A comprehensive study of impacts on the area's hydrology, air quality, and wildlife need to be done. Six hundred wells are anticipated as said in public by Gunnison Energy, and cumulative impacts of that need to be studied as well as the current 8 proposed wells.

41-2 The BLM and USFS need to require bonds that cover the full cost of reclamation. Stringent mitigation should be required at all drill sites and access routes if this impactful project is allowed to go through.

41-3 Enforcement of the industry must be rigorous. They have a bad track record and I don't trust the COGC to protect our environment.

41-4 The lack of compatibility of this industry with present community values needs to be taken seriously. Local input should be given serious consideration if you listen to the Bush administration. We already have three huge underground mines impacting our area. I am worried about water pollution, disruption of big game populations (which contributes to our economy in a big way), air quality impacts from dust and emissions, light pollution, noise pollution, and impacts to roads. I am also concerned about property values. My home is my biggest investment. I feel this huge project is bad and not compatible with our valley and will destroy our economy and way of life.

I hope to God they don't find gas or the whole community will suffer.

**PAONIA RANGER DISTRICT
ACTION** **DATE**

JUN 23 2003

DISTRICT RANGER _____
MINERALS _____
LANDS/ENG _____
RANGE _____
WILDLIFE _____
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BDM/DBM ASST _____
EO _____
MEMBER _____

Sincerely,



Sam Brown

Letter 42

June 20, 2003

Project Manager
GEC Exploration Drilling Project
P. O. Box 1030
Paonia, CO 81428

Project Manager:

I have been referencing the Environmental Assessment volumes concerning the proposed Gunnison Energy Corporation's exploratory gas drilling project on the south flank of the Grand Mesa.

42-1 [I am not in favor of this project, because from all I've heard and read, the ultimate goal of this effort, the desire to drill hundreds of wells if these test wells prove productive, will lead to the defacing of one of the most beautiful pristine areas in western Colorado. I have yet to know of any area where gas production of this magnitude has enhanced the well being of the land.

42-2 [Further, just these eight test wells will have an immediate detrimental impact on the communities close to their development. Noise and traffic will infringe on the daily lives of the people who live along the routes used to set up the wells. I don't believe this is right. Despite the fact that to drill and develop these wells will take 75 to 80 days, there will be additional time to test them and that obviously includes additional traffic and noise. That certainly is likely to impact the quality of life for nearby residents.

42-3 [I am also concerned about the potential problem of compromising water sources. There are too many risks. It must be made clear that there will be no effects from hydrofracturing. Communities in the area have built and are dependent upon reliable water systems and, if these are destroyed, it would mean unknown chaos. It has happened elsewhere and the results have been disastrous.

42-4 [There are paragraphs of mitigating measures in the Environmental Assessment, but I have little faith that they will be well received by the oil and gas industry. Their reputation is very questionable, and any remedial action to serious problems has been slow or blatantly nonexistent. And what penalties are appropriate if failure to comply with regulations occurs? A damaged water system could cost millions of dollars. Is Gunnison Energy willing to pay?

42-5 [Gunnison Energy has a right to drill their test wells on their leases, but will they "safeguard the health, safety and welfare" of the surrounding communities?



Lee Overton
3949 P-10 Lane
Paonia, CO 81428

PAONIA RANGER DISTRICT
ACTION DATE

JUN 23 2003

DISTRICT RANGER _____
MINERALS _____
LANDS/ENG _____
RANGE _____
WILDLIFE _____
CDA _____
DEM/DBM ASST _____
LEO _____
TIMBER _____

Letter 43

Liane Mattson, Project Manager
GEC Exploration Drilling Project
PO Box 1030
Paonia, CO 81428
June 17, 2003

PALOIA DISTRICT OFFICE
ACTION

JUN 20 2003

DISTRICT RANGER
MINERALS
INDS/ENG
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ASST

Dear Ms Mattson,

After spending many hours reading through the Environmental Assessment prepared by the Forest Service on the Gunnison Energy Corporation's Proposed Exploratory Gas Drilling Project, I have chosen a list format for making my responses. Unfortunately time and space does not allow me to address all of my concerns that have surfaced after reading the report.

I realize that the forest service is responsible for what goes on in the forest, and not how the surrounding community is affected. Unfortunately, I find it impossible to evaluate the effects of one without realizing the impacts on the other. I will hit some of the key points that I believe are worthy of further evaluation and discussion. Unfortunately it would take many more pages to address ALL of the issues that impact our shared community, so I am limiting my responses.

Note: For the sake of brevity EA is being substituted for Environmental Assessment

FOREST ENVIRONMENT

1. *For exploration purposes ONLY*, "Approximately 33.1 acres of wildlife habitat would be affected by surface disturbances with the Proposed Action. These effects would be relatively short-term, lasting up to a maximum of 3 years. If any of the wells prove to (sic) economical for natural gas production, portions of the original disturbances would be lost as wildlife habitat for an estimated 20 to 30 years."

In the next paragraph the EA goes on to say, "The greatest potential for cumulative Impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat would come with additional gas and drilling Activities and mining. Expansion of these activities could result in an increase of Open roads as well as habitat conversion and loss associated with road and well site Development." with more about.....reduction in secure areas for Elk, mule deer, and black bear, increased public access created by expanded road Systems, etc., etc.,etc..... p.3.6-20, EA

I take issue with the verbage "could result in an increase of open roads as well as habitat conversion". Early math education teaches us that $2 + 2 = 4$. If there are impacts from just 8 exploratory wells listed at this time, isn't it only logical that those impacts will be compounded with expanded drilling?

Letter 43 Continued

43-1 Are potential “expansion” activities planned to be carried out in some manner that will not require additional roads, deforesting of lands and noise impacts to the wildlife? If not, the wording should be changed to **will result**.

43-2 2. Fire Danger:
The EA states that there is less fire danger in the “cool, montane environment” above 8,000 feet. P.3.5-9
As a former resident of Evergreen, CO, living at an altitude of 8200 feet in Valley Hi located close to Conifer and just a few miles away from the recent Haymen wild fire, I strongly disagree with this assessment. My neighbors and I lived in constant fear of dealing with a catastrophic fire as our homes were surrounded by forest. The Denver Post has written several articles about fires along the front range. One quote has remained in my memory, “It is not a matter of if, it is a matter of when.....” referring to a massive fire happening along the front range. I suggest that further research be conducted into the forest fires that have occurred in our state in regard to the altitudes of those sites.

I moved here with the thought that there would be far less worry regarding fires with the low population base. Now, I am faced with GEC and their volatile fuels from heavy trucks, operator mistakes, as well as flares from gas wells and the potential of site explosions. The Grand Mesa forest has now joined the ranks of the other endangered forests of Colorado. All of the above concerns are referenced in the EA. P.3.15-2

43-3 3. Water
“Potential impact of hydrofracturing is uncertain due to a lack of site-specific data for the Mesa Verde Formation in the project area.” The report goes on to say that impacts are “not expected.” SORRY but this is not good enough. This is our water supply. We need assurances not weak language like “not expected”. Just WHO is going to be responsible for the safety and quality of our water? P 3.14-19

I say, the “proposed” project by GEC should be delayed until **ASSURANCES CAN BE MADE REGARDING THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF OUR WATER BACKED UP BY SITE-SPECIFIC DATA OF THE MESA VERDE FORMATION IN THE PROJECT AREA.**

This important item ALONE should stop the project from moving forward until the public has complete assurance that there will be no adverse effects to the water.

COMMUNITY ISSUES:

43-4 Truck traffic due to 350 truck round -trips during a 20 day period will increase noise, pollution and safety risks. In the EA on p. 3.9-3 states that “noise effects mainly would affect wildlife.” Are the deer and elk more sensitive to noise than our school

Letter 43 Continued

- 43-4 children sitting in their classrooms receiving instruction as the trucks pass right underneath the school windows? This EA statement clearly demonstrates the inadequacy of the report.
- 43-5 I realize that this is an "Environmental Assessment" and that the Forest Service is concerned with on-site issues. However, realistically it is impossible to separate our community issues from those affecting the Grand Mesa. All effects on our forest lands directly impact our community. Therefore, it is only logical, that an Environmental Impact Study be conducted before making decisions that deal with the health, safety and welfare of our community.

Inconsistencies/Contradictions in the Assessment

- 43-6 1. Under Water-Resource-Related issues, p.3.15-1 the following statement is made regarding disposal of water ".....and transported to a certified disposal facility using a route other than SH 65)see Table 2-6." When referring to Table 2-6 there is NO other route listed.
- 43-7 2. The table 2-5 on p. 2-24 needs to be re-worked for numbers. The numbers should add up to 350 truck round-trips, carrying a total of 9,750,000 pounds of equipment and material in a 20-day period.
- 43-8 3. "Because most of the hydrofracturing would be done at considerable depths(2,000 feet or more below ground surface), groundwater resources near the surface, such as springs, **would not be affected. Section 2.12.3** Then under the heading **Cumulative Impacts** the Assessment states, "Future oil and gas development would require water for drilling and produced water from testing. **The effects on the groundwater quantity would depend upon the number of wells and the amount of water in the geological formations. 3.4-25** Then listed under the heading: **Irreversible/Irretrievable Commitment of Resources** It is stated, "use of water for drilling and completion operations and potential for Produced water during testing. 3.17.1
- 43-9 Please just state which of the three statements is true..... 1.)groundwater sources would not be affected, 2.) groundwater quantity is dependant upon the number of wells or 3.) the groundwater is considered to be an Irreversible/Irretrievable resource.

ADDITIONAL IMPACTS

- 43-10 Unfortunately neither time nor space allowed for the discussion of the following affected individuals:
Hikers, bikers, horseback riders, fruit growers, residents, tourists, hunters, ATVers, snowmobilers, residents living along the truck route, bird watchers, scenic viewers, birds, plant species, aspen forests, meadows, wildflowers, air quality, viewshed, any person or animal within the area..... are all affected by the proposed drilling. Effects upon all of the above are stated in the lengthy Environmental Assessment.
- 43-11 The Environmental Assessment addresses only 8 proposed well sites. Reference is made to added impacts should the exploratory wells prove profitable to GEC. The projection of

Letter 43 Continued

43-11 30 to 40 years of drilling on the Forest Lands with effects multiplied over potentially thousands of wells does not bode well for the future of the Grand Mesa forest lands or the communities of Delta County.

43-12 In closing, I would like to say that our community is interconnected with the Grand Mesa National Forest and any attempt to separate the two is a distortion of the facts. The Environmental Assessment mailed to my home for review and comments, does not adequately address the issues of the Delta County interconnected community nor does it give any assurances of future protection of our valuable resources. BEFORE allowing the Gunnison Energy Corporation to move forward with the 8 proposed wells , an

43-13 Environmental Impact Study must be conducted. To do otherwise shows an irresponsible lack of regard for the Public Health and Safety of the Delta County residents as well as the survival of one of our national treasures, The Grand Mesa National Forest.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Pedotto
Cedaredge, Colorado

Cc: Rep.Scott McInnis
Senator Wayne Allard
Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell

Letter 44

Project Manager
GEC exploration Drilling Project
PO Box 1030
Paonia CO 81428

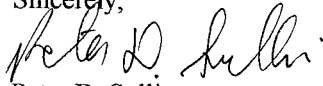
Dear Project Manager,

44-1 [Having reviewed your Environmental Assessment study on coal bed methane drilling on
Federal lands I have some grave concerns. Foremost is the possible negative impact on
our water supply. According to the study there is no guarantee our water supply will be
protected. Water is the life blood of our area.

44-2 [Another concern is that Hwy 65 is designated a scenic byway. What will the
socioeconomic ramifications be if there is a drop in tourism as a result of negative impact
on wildlife, loss of wilderness view, and significant truck traffic on the highway?

44-3 [As a taxpayer I would want a complete environmental impact study done prior to drilling
to prevent irreversible environmental damage to our public lands and determine the socio
economic impact to our area.

Sincerely,



Peter D. Sullivan

2534 Q50 Rd.

Cedaredge CO 81413

PAONIA RANGER DISTRICT
ACTION

DA4

JUN 20 2003

DISTRICT RANGER _____
MINERALS _____
LANDS/ENG _____
RANGE _____
WILDLIFE _____
GDA _____
DBM/DBM ASST _____
LEO _____
TIMBER _____

Letter 45

PAONIA RANGER DISTRICT
NOTATION DATE

JUN 23 2003

LUCIA R. VORYS
1559 4110 DRIVE
PAONIA, CO 81428

STRICT RANGER _____
SERIALS _____ ✓
NDS/ENG _____
NGE _____
DLIFE _____

June 20, '03

TO/FROM ASST _____
TO _____ To Project Manager
NUMBER _____ GEC Exploration Drilling Project

Dear Sirs/Misses,

I have read the Forest Service's
and BLM's Environmental Assessment regarding GEC's
proposed exploratory gas project of 8 wells and
am hereby registering my extreme objection to the
project.

45-1 [Truck traffic and noise will ruin the usefulness
of the Cedaredge area to such as myself who
travels there once a week, and certainly to the
residents of the area.

45-2 [Risk to our water is serious and
irreversible. That in itself is reason enough
to stop any further gas well exploration.

45-3 [Scarring the scenic beauty of this area
with drilling rigs and accompanying equipment
would be sacrilegious, like installing a trash
truck in the aisle of a cathedral.

Please do not go forward with this project.
Instead, develop alternative, renewable, fuel
resources.

Lucia Vorys

Letter 46

Dear Project Coordinator

PACIFIC RANGER DISTRICT
DATE

I am very much opposed to any additional
test wells by Gunnison Energy. We need a

complete environmental impact study of coal bed

methane development. The irreversible damage that

can be the results of such mining is to be taken


seriously. Gunnison Energy already has a bad track

record and they are planning many more wells in the

future. For the survival of our community which depends

on water please do not jeopardize this precious

resource

Sincerely, 

Letter 47

YONAH RANGER DISTRICT
SECTION
DATE

JUN 23 2003

DISTRICT RANGER

INERIALS

ANDS/ENG

ANGE

ASST

Dear Project Manager,

47-1 We remain opposed to Gunnison Energy Corporation's proposals for exploratory gas drilling. Having read through the Environmental Assessment, there are still too many unknown effects.

47-2 It is small comfort to know that for those residents living near the well sites will have their water tested. What if contaminants are found? The damage has been done.

47-3 The increase in heavy traffic is a huge concern. We live a mile east of Highway 65 and it is not unusual to hear traffic from that road at our house. It is quite tolerable as it is. The thought of the traffic, noise, and safety issues that would arise from this drilling is unsettling. Highway 65 is a scenic byway and Cedaredge is a small, quiet community, very dependent on tourist dollars. What about our narrow streets and the fact that Highway 65 is also a residential street?

47-4 We know that the potential gas that would be obtained is minimal and would not create a

Letter 47 Continued

47-4

major change in our nation's energy situation. Far better to spend money on alternative sources.

47-5

Visitors will not want to put up with the industrial traffic and our merchants are doing their best to improve our community and their sales. This drilling would not be an asset.

Please reconsider this issue. What if you lived on Highway 65? What if you lived within a mile or two of one of these proposed sites?

Sincerely,

Rick and Katrina
Yochim

Letter 48

June 20, 2003

Project Managers

From reading through the E.A. on, "Gunnison Energy Corporation's Proposed Exploratory Gas Drilling Project," it appears the drilling sites have been well studied.

48-1 [Gunnison has legal leases to drill these exploration wells. It's time to let Gunnison Energy drill its exploration wells. There are plenty of safeguards in place to insure good quality drilling occurs.

48-2 [New natural gas fields need to be found and put into production. There is a natural gas shortage facing the United States of America.

Drilling fits in on the Forest Service's old multiple use concept.

Therefore I hope the Forest Service will allow these wells to be drilled without further delay.

Sincerely,
Sogan D. Scott
P.O. Box 1057
Cedaredge, Colorado 81413

Letter 49

PAONIA RANGER DISTRICT
ACTION June 20, 2003 DATE
JUN 23 2003

Project Manager
GFC Exploration Drilling Project
PO Box 1030
Paonia, CO 81428

DISTRICT RANGER
MINERALS ☒
LANDS/ENG
RANGE
WILDLIFE
CO
FEDERAL ASST
FEDERAL

My husband and I own property on the south side of Spaulding Peak, within 1/2 mile from the proposed Spaulding Peak methane gas exploratory well. We are, as you might say, "on the front line" to a potential coal bed methane drilling site.

We are writing to express our extreme opposition to coal bed methane development in this area and in all of Delta County. Our family, like many others in the area, relies on well water for domestic use. That is why we, as landowners, are tremendously concerned about the risk of decreased water and the pollution of existing water.

Letter 49 Continued

49-2

Other environmental impacts that we fear are the deterioration of air quality, noise pollution, fire danger, and the impact on soil and roads. Because of these potentially damaging results to the environment and the lifestyle of many Delta County citizens, my husband and I feel very strongly that there is absolutely too much risk involved in allowing coalbed methane development to take place in this area.

49-3

After attending the local and county meetings on this subject, we've learned that we, as Delta County citizens, will gain nothing compared to what we stand to lose if the water supply is decreased or becomes contaminated.

49-4

In summary, our family feels that gas exploration and/or development could interfere with our future use and enjoyment of the land in and around the Grand Mesa.

Letter 49 Continued

We are members of the Western Slope Environmental Resource Council which is appealing the leases, and we have participated in opposing this proposal since first hearing of it.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and considering our viewpoint.

Sincerely,

Mike Laurita
Jean Laurita
2036 - 2425 Rd.
Cedaredge, CO
81413

Letter 50

Project Manager. Gas Exploration Drilling Project

I am just writing to say that the EA for 8 exploratory wells by Gunnison Energy Corp. seems lacking and a little confusing.

50-1 The reality is that we need to do a longer water study and it has to be done by a third party that is independent from both sides. Coalbed Methane wells are well known for polluting water. So how can the Wright Water Engineers say that the wells will not affect the water. Except that they were paid by GEC.

50-2 The Truck Traffic will greatly increase. The U.S. Forest Service and The BLM need to work with the state, county and city officials where this truck traffic will be. How can you call Coalbed Methane wells "Energy Production" when you have to use so much energy to get it but if you took an honest look at all the energy cost of the production of Coalbed Methane. There would be a net loss of energy.

50-3 So please do not allow these wells to go ahead. There needs to be further water studies done and something needs to be done ~~about~~ there to lessen the truck traffic. There are other ways to produce energy. I would like to see our Public Lands remain as they are and not become industrial.

Letter 50 Continued

50-3

Parks

Lance Swigart

Lance Swigart

1456 3100 Ad

Hotchkiss, Colo

81419

PAONIA RANGER DISTRICT

ACTION

DATE

JUN 23 2003

DISTRICT RANGER

MINERALS

LANDS/ENG

RANGE

WILDLIFE

DA

RM/BBM ASST

BER